CURSE OF THE™

SPAWN®

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2000 B.C. WHEN GODS RULED THE EARTH.
DEEP WITHIN STYGIAN CAVES, NYX, THE PERSONIFICATION OF NIGHT, RESTS UPON HER THRONE OF SKULLS AND CONSULTS HER BLACK PEARL TREE OF ORACLES.
HER VOICE IS A PUTRID HISS, HER MIND A WHIRLING MIST OF LIVING DARKNESS.
ON THE ETHER OF OURANOS AND GAEA... THE BLOOD OF CRONUS AND BRIAREUS, SPEAK NOW!

THERE, WITHIN THE OBSIDIAN VISIONS OF DEEPEST NULL COMES A PROPHESY OF DESTRUCTION.
YES... THE CITY OF GOLD... OLYMPUS... CRUSHED AND BURNING.
THE BODIES OF BROKEN GODS STREWN LIKE TWIGS UPON THE SURFACE OF OCEANUS...
HAHAHA HA!
NYX LAUGHS WITHIN THE BLACK VOID OF HER DREAMS. FOR THESE VISIONS COME FROM AN EVEN DARKER PLACE. A LAND AS YET UNNAMED.
A LAND OF FIRE. AND BRIMSTONE.

TARTARUS...
...THE REGION BEYOND HADES... A PLACE OF DEATH AND DAMNATION FOR THOSE WHO HAVE OFFENDED THE WILL OF THE GODS.
FORGIVE ME!
GAAAA!!
ABOVE ALL THIS, THE RULER OF THIS PLACE: HADES, GOD OF THE UNDER-WORLD.
PITILESS. INEXORABLE. TERRIBLE IN HIS REMORSELESS WRATH.
NOTHING CHANGES.

I BEG TO DIFFER, MY LORD.
WHAT IS IT, NYX? YOU KNOW I HATE TO BE DISTURBED.
A GREAT BEAST IS COMING. IT RISES FROM A PLACE FAR BELOW.
WHAT BEAST? THERE IS NOTHING BEYOND TARTARUS!
GRRR
SLITHRP
RURRRR
THERE. THE VENGEANCE OF THE TITANS, BETRAYED BY THE GODS, HAS GONE TO TAKE SHAPE IN THE FORM OF THIS NEW BEAST.
YOU LIE! CERBERUS!
AH, BUT THERE IS A PLACE. BEYOND CHAOS ITSELF. A PLACE CALLED HELL.

TEACH THIS SEER THE COST OF FALSE SIGHT.
NO, LORD HADES! I SPEAK THE TRUTH!
RRRRRARRR
CHEW HER SLOWLY, MY PET.
THE GODS WILL SUFFER. THE GODS WILL PAY WITH THEIR BLOOD!
LAUGHTER RISES FROM BELOW. A SOUND TO CHILL THE SPINES OF THE LONG DEAD.
KA PAKK!

ZEUS HAVE MERCY...!
IT HAS COME.
A GIANT.
A VISION THAT SETS THE MAN-DRAGONS AND SWINE-WENCHES SHRIEKING IN TERROR.
IT RISES FROM PERPETUAL INFERNO INTO THE RELATIVE CALM OF HADES.
CHTTRR
IT IS RAENIS. HELLSPAWN.
ARISEN FROM THE FIERY DEPTHS THAT FORGED HIM.
CHTTRR
CHTTRR
SLICK FLICK
EEEEAH!

WHAT MANNER OF BEAST ARE YOU?
REVENGE.
CERBERUS SMELLS THE ALIEN THREAT, LIKE NO CREATURE IT HAS TORN APART BEFORE THIS IS NEW FLESH
CERBERUS ATTACKS
I WALK WITH DEATH.
CERBERUS HAS NEVER BEFORE BEEN BESTED, HURLED INTO THE RIVER ACHERON...
... NEVER BEFORE BEEN WOUNDED, ASHAMED.
MORE BLOOD.

YOU FIGHT WELL, CREATURE. I CAN USE SUCH WARRIORS HERE. JOIN ME.
I RULE THIS PLACE. I AM HADES. A GOD.
ALL GODS ARE LIARS, COWARDS. THEY WILL ALL DIE.
STARTING WITH YOU.
I THINK NOT!

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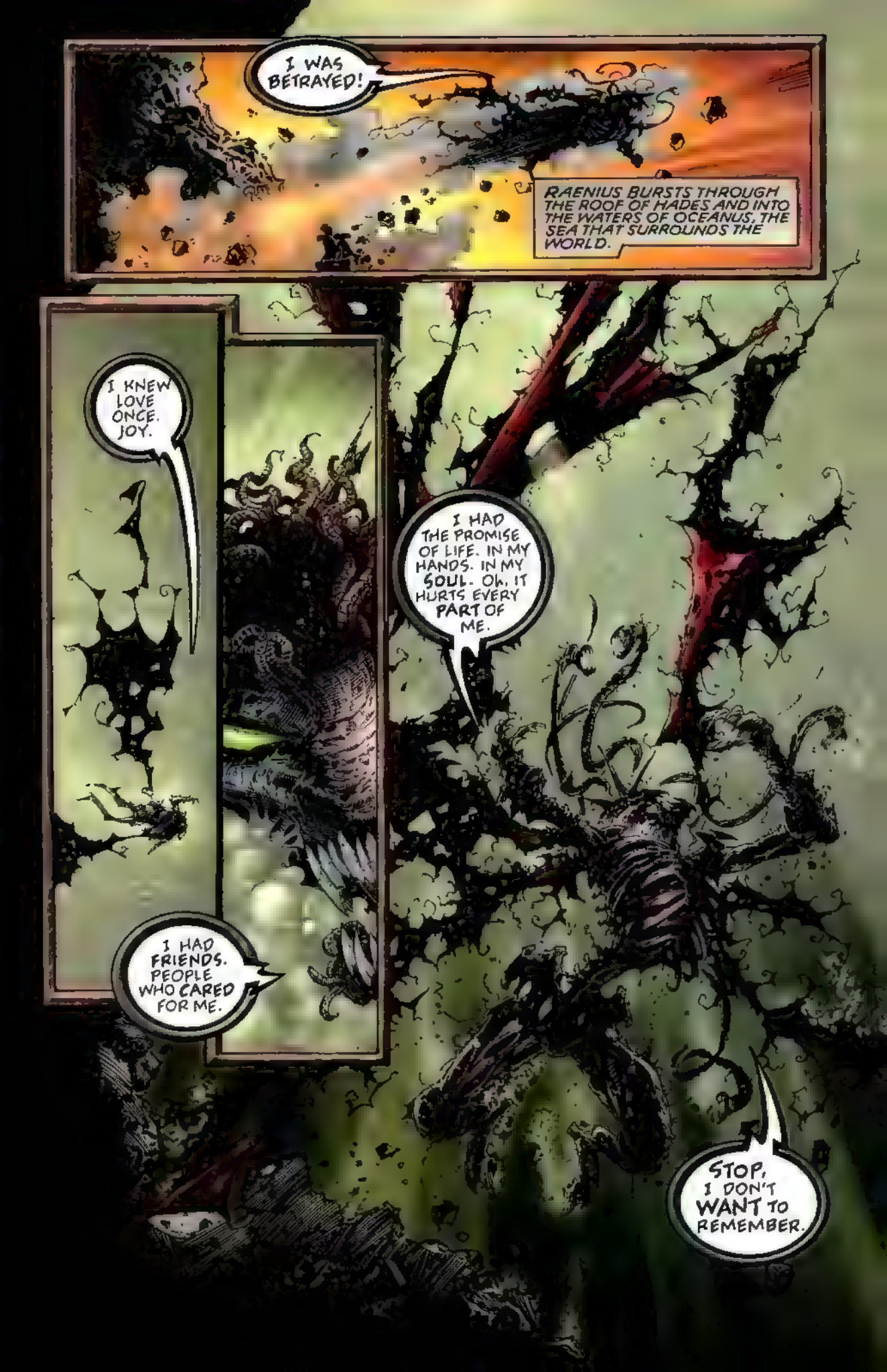
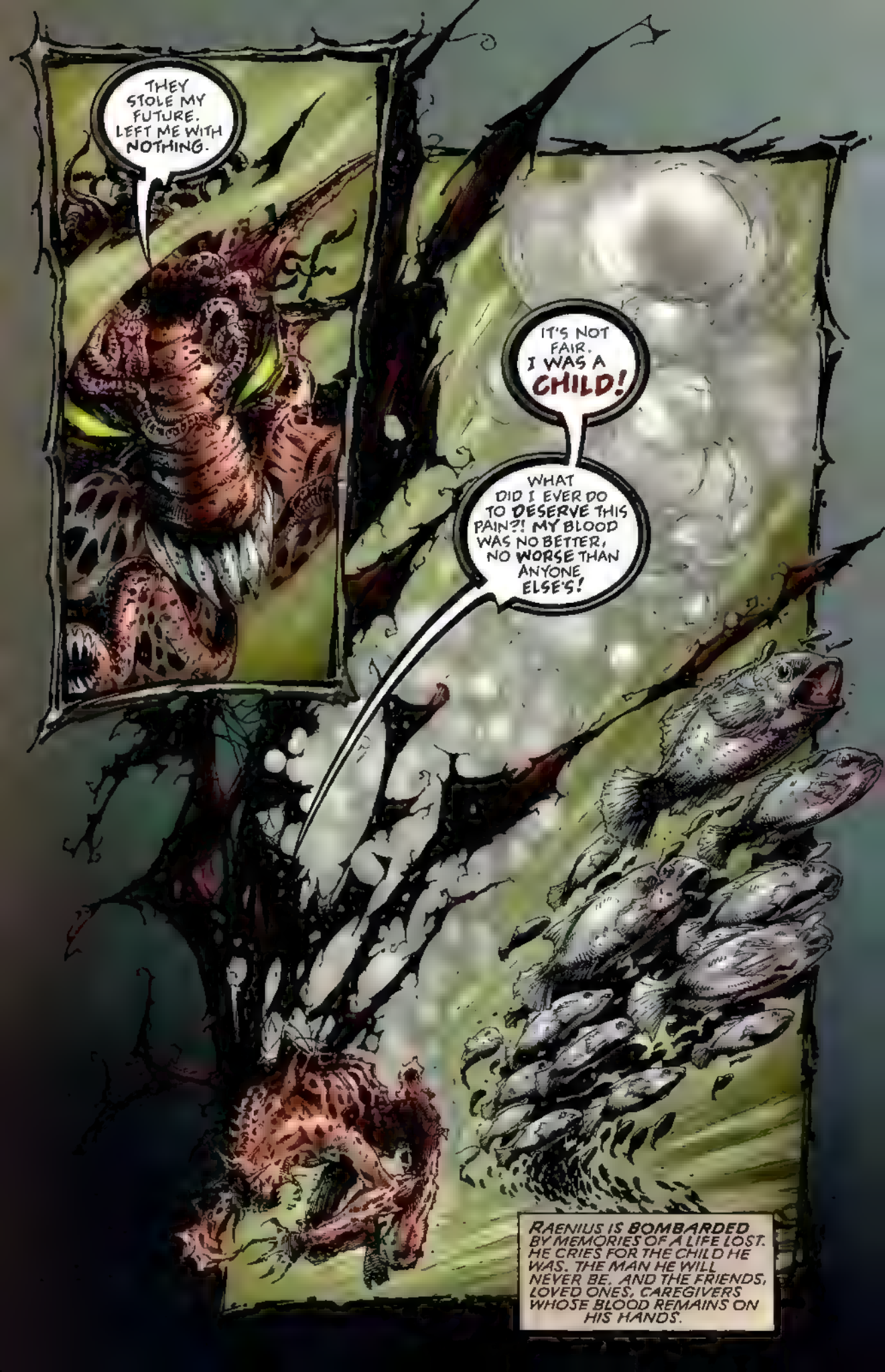
REVENGE IS AN ENERGY GREATER THAN THE SUN, THE MOON, AND THE STARS COMBINED.
HADES IS NO MATCH
RAENIUS LAUGHS, FUELED BY RAGE... THEN SCREAMS.
NO... WHO AM I?! WHY AM I HERE? THIS FLESH... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?!!
YOU ARE TO KILL HIM
THE KING OF THE GODS
THAT IS YOUR PURPOSE THAT IS YOUR FATE
YOU WILL REIGN IN THE PLACE OF ZEUS YOU WILL SLAY THE GODS
YOU WILL AVENGE THE DEATH OF CRONUS AND YOURSELF


I WAS BETRAYED!
RAENIUS BURSTS THROUGH THE ROOF OF HADES AND INTO THE WATERS OF OCEANUS, THE SEA THAT SURROUNDS THE WORLD.
I KNEW LOVE ONCE. JOY.
I HAD THE PROMISE OF LIFE. IN MY HANDS. IN MY SOUL. Oh, IT HURTS EVERY PART OF ME.
I HAD FRIENDS. PEOPLE WHO CARED FOR ME.
STOP, I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER.

A CHILD. SO HAPPY, SO FILLED WITH POSSIBILITIES IN A WORLD OF WONDER
BUT HIS MOTHER ARIENA TOOK HIM FROM THESSALY, HIS HOME, TO A FAR-AWAY ISLAND.
HERE, THE BOY, RAENIUS, LIVED WITH A GROUP OF CENTAURS. THEY TAUGHT HIM HOW TO LIVE. HOW TO FIGHT. HOW TO USE SWORD AND JAVELIN.
THE CENTAURS SHOWED HIM HOW TO WIELD AN AXE AND BE VICTORIOUS IN COMBAT. AND RAENIUS LEARNED. HE HAD THE MAKINGS OF A TRUE CHAMPION.
BUT THEN, THE CLOUDS DARKENED FOR THE BOY WHO WOULD NEVER BE A MAN.


THEY STOLE MY FUTURE. LEFT ME WITH NOTHING.
IT'S NOT FAIR. I WAS A CHILD!
WHAT DID I EVER DO TO DESERVE THIS PAIN?! MY BLOOD WAS NO BETTER, NO WORSE THAN ANYONE ELSE'S!
RAENIUS IS BOMBARDED BY MEMORIES OF A LIFE LOST. HE CRIES FOR THE CHILD HE WAS. THE MAN HE WILL NEVER BE. AND THE FRIENDS, LOVED ONES, CAREGIVERS WHOSE BLOOD REMAINS ON HIS HANDS.

MY FAULT
HE SEES THE CENTAURS ON THE DAY OF THEIR DECIMATION.
THEY DIED TO PROTECT ME
TO HIDE ME FROM THEM.
FROM HIM!
THE MEMORY COMES AS THOUGH IT WERE REAL, THE DAY OF HIS DEATH' REVISITED WITH A VENGEANCE THAT'S AMPLIFIED THROUGH A CHILD'S UNEXTINGUISHED FEAR.
HE REMEMBERS HOW THE SHADOW FELL UPON HIM FROM A BOIL OF CLOUDS, HOW THE HAND REACHED DOWN AND GRABBED HIM.
Ah, HERE YOU ARE-- THE BASTARD SON OF MY FATHER. WHAT A TASTY MORSEL YOU'LL MAKE.
THE GODS CAN HAVE BUT ONE KING!

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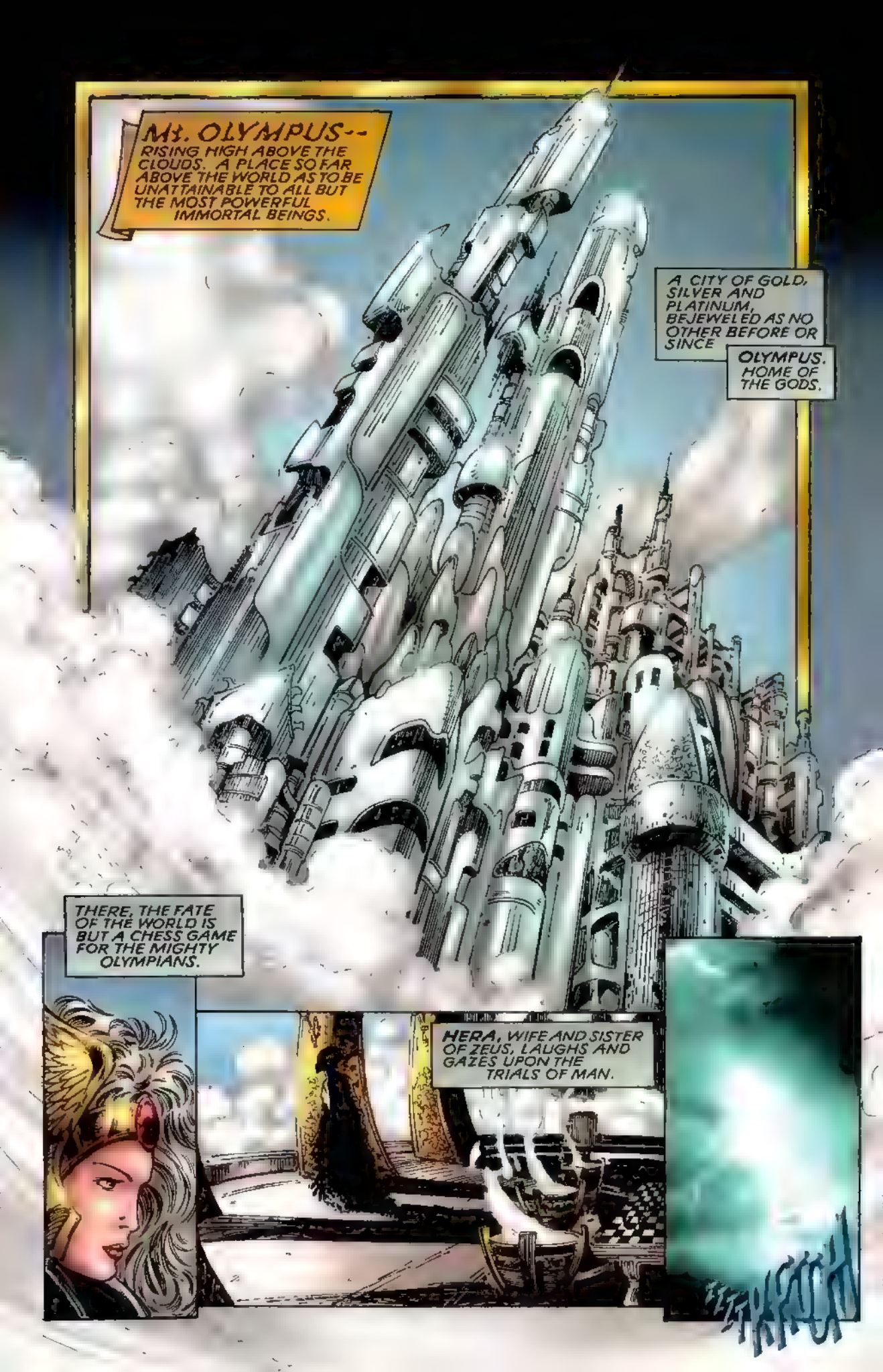
MT. OLYMPUS--
RISING HIGH ABOVE THE CLOUDS. A PLACE SO FAR ABOVE THE WORLD AS TO BE UNATTAINABLE TO ALL BUT THE MOST POWERFUL IMMORTAL BEINGS.
A CITY OF GOLD, SILVER AND PLATINUM, BEJEWELED AS NO OTHER BEFORE OR SINCE
OLYMPUS. HOME OF THE GODS.
THERE, THE FATE OF THE WORLD IS BUT A CHESS GAME FOR THE MIGHTY OLYMPIANS.
HERA, WIFE AND SISTER OF ZEUS, LAUGHS AND GAZES UPON THE TRIALS OF MAN.

OUT OF A CRACK OF FIERCE LIGHTNING COMES THE TALLEST, MOST FEARSOME OF THE GODS. THE KING. ZEUS. HIS PRESENCE BOTH AUTHORITARIAN AND SINISTER
A BEING WHO USURPED THE OLYMPIAN THRONE FROM THEIR FOREFATHERS, THE TITANS, THROUGH DECEPTION, MURDER, AND WAR
SOMETHING IS WRONG
YOU'RE MISTAKEN ALL IS AS ALWAYS
NO. I FEEL IT IN MY BONES
POOL OF VISIONS, REVEAL TO ME WHAT IS AMISS
ZEUS STRIDES FROM THE SCRYING POOL AND ITS VISION OF THE UNDERWORLD
THERE BELOW, AN IMPALED HADES STRUGGLES TO BREAK FREE
RAAH!!
IT'S HERE-- FROM BELOW-- IT'S COME!!

IN THE NAME OF THE FATES AND THE BLACK MISTS OF EREBUS!
SOME-THING IS LOOSE ON EARTH THAT THREATENS US ALL!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S OUT THERE?
WE'LL NOT SPEAK OF THIS, WOMAN.
CURSE YOUR ARROGANCE, ZEUS!
ARE YOU SURPRISED? YOU'VE TAKEN WHAT YOU'VE WANTED FOR TOO LONG, AND TO TARTARUS WITH THE CONSE-QUENCES.

I'VE WARNED YOU TIME AND AGAIN, THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN YOU'D HAVE TO *PAY* FOR YOUR VILE TREACHERIES.
EVIL WILL NOT GO UN-PUNISHED
THERE IS NO EVIL UNLESS I DECREE IT. NO LAW UNLESS I MAKE IT.
DO YOU *HEAR*?!!
Ha Ha. NOW I SEE. THE MIGHTY ZEUS IS *AFRAID*-- AND EVEN THROUGH *FEAR* YOU'LL LET YOUR PETTY VANITY BE YOUR UNDOING
THAT'S ENOUGH!
KNOW THIS, MY DEAR WIFE, MY BELOVED SISTER... I WOULD RATHER KILL ALL THAT LIVES AND BREATHES AND EATS THAN LOSE MY PLACE AS KING OF ALL THE UNIVERSE. PRAY IT DOESN'T *COME* TO THAT.
PRAY TO ME THAT THIS EVIL WILL BE VANQUISHED.
SEND FOR APOLLO.

I FELT LOVE ONCE.
I REMEMBER.
YES... A WOMAN.
YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL. SO... VERY BEAUTIFUL.
I COULDN'T THINK OF ANY-ONE ELSE.
I WATCHED HER SWIM IN THE LAGOON. HER SKIN. SO SMOOTH... HER EYES, HER HAIR... SO PERFECT... IT HURTS TO REMEMBER... BE-CAUSE I HAVE NO HEART.. MY BODY ACHES FOR MY LIFE...
PAIN...
THERE... SSSSS.. YOU... HELL-SPAWN...
CHILDREN OF THE DRAGON'S TEETH. . DEAD WARRIORS...
YES, HELLSPAWN...
..WE ARE THE DEAD MEN...
..AND WE'VE COME FOR YOU.

THERE YOU ARE, RAENIUS. CHANGED FROM HOW I *REMEMBER* YOU.
BUT JUST AS BEAUTIFUL. JUST AS SHY AND FULL OF EXQUISITE INNOCENCE.
ALAS, NOW YOU'RE A MAN. AND YOU HAVE THE *RAGE* OF A MAN.
DO YOU *REMEMBER* ME, RAENIUS? MY MORNING SWIMS WERE FOR *YOU*, MY SWEET.
MEDUSA...

I WANTED TO BE YOUR FIRST
BUT ZEUS TOOK YOU FROM ME THEN ATHENA CHANGED ME, *THREATENED* BY MY *PERFECTION.*
HHUJUUM
BUT NOW YOU'RE HERE, MY HELLSPAWN LOVER. WELCOME TO THE WORLD WE WILL SOON RULE *TOGETHER...*
AS *HUSBAND* AND *WIFE.*
TO BE CONTINUED

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BlahBlahBlah

BlahBlahBlah_67
w/terry fitzgerald
tdfitz@aol.com

Hey. So I m back in Japan aga n th s week to v sit about fifteen of our key licensees over here. Spawn is becoming qu te the huge property here and it's not uncommon to see someone wa king the streets of downtown Tokyo in a Spawn t-shirt or wearing a silver ring. The popu arity of the com c book has exploded since ts incept on The f rst issue alone has been reprinted over ten times. It's at a point now where the sales here will pretty soon overtake those of the U S. and Canada

Not only is the com c book doing well, apparel is selling well as is everything e se. We produced a spec al soundtrack featur ng "A r" and "Audio Active", two huge acts here. The first pressing so d out in three days and they have gone back to press twice since By the way, for those of you who might be interested in hear ng this CD, word on the street is the McFar ane Toys Co lector's C ub wil have some cop es ava lable in their July newsletter. If you are not a member and wou d ke more information, please ca 1-800-99SPAWN.

Today I meet with the board of directors for the video game company Konami. We just signed a deal with them to deve op a Spawn Gameboy game, in both regu ar b ack and wh te and the newly announced color Gameboy With the color version, expect over 36 colors on your Gameboy screen from a palette of 32,000 I've wanted to do a Spawn Gameboy game for over s x years now, but until the quality improved, I ve had to say "no" to everyone We if you're patient, expect to see the game on store shelves somet me Summer 1999

Speaking of vid games, tonight we take Schinkensen, or bullet train, to Osaka to meet with Capcom who is working on the Spawn stand-up arcade game. I can t tell you the story ine of the game but I will say that your arcade wil be able to nk up to four of the Spawn cab nets enab ng you to play with or against your friends Expect th s game to use the latest, most secret processors and graph c ch psets. Capcom has assured us that they want th s title to outsell any Street F ghter game they have re eased. Expect to see the game in your arcade in ate 1999 and home versions in 2000 On wh ch platforms you ask? Your guess is as good as m ne. I th nk t's reasonab e to assume Nintendo 64 w st l be around Sega's new Katan w l be well established and the Sony P ayStat on 2 or PlayStation 64 should be "game" as well

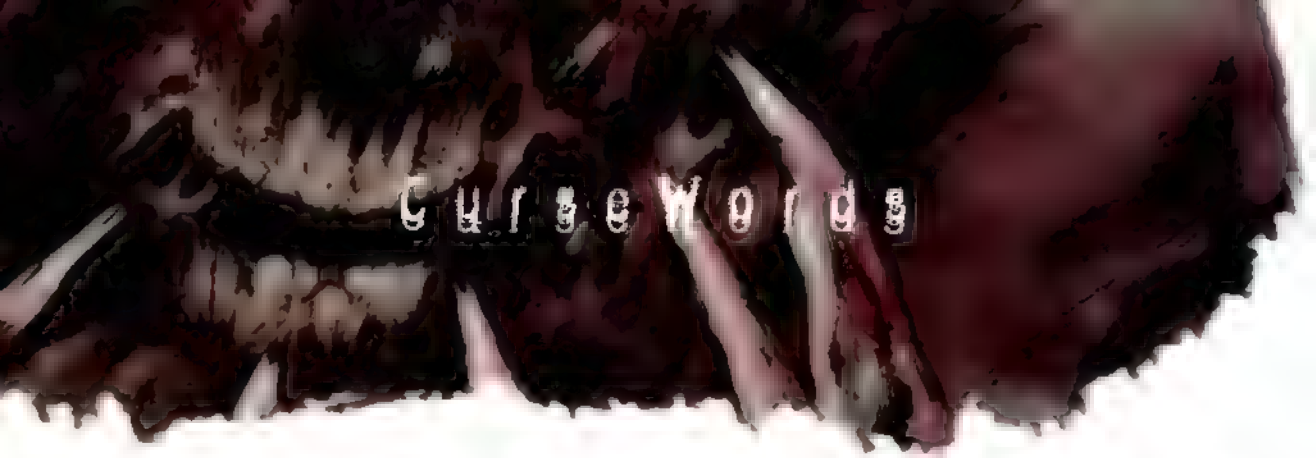
Back home, I have to give many thanks and great praise to Greg Capu o for his outstanding work on this com c issue you hold right now Greg s an amazing pencilling machine Listen to th s. Todd gave him the p ot for the last twelve pages on Thursday, April 30th! Yup Greg pencilled eleven pages in ess than three days. Better than h s speed potential, Greg's qua ty workmanship is stil evident, as you have already seen. Great ob Greg. Thanks for giving 150%

The photos you see on th s page were taken on Todd's and my trip to Tokyo th s past January. We were over here to promote the movie in Tokyo for Gaga Communicat ons and took t me to visit Madhouse the Japanese animat on house responsible for produc ng the next six Spawn animated shows starting on HBO this May 15th. P ctured are Todd himself, Me Yumiko Miyano and Rick Priyman, our Japanese licensing agents

Also pictured is Ms. Takahashi who works hand in hand with Madhouse president Mr Maruyama For those of you who will see the next six episodes, (hey, get off your ass and get HBO will ya, it s only $10 a month), the d fference between these ep sodes and the first six is outstand ng. Yes, they are that much better. I hope everyone enjoys them Please feel free to email me any comments

Unt next month, keep the peace, all my best

- terry fitzgera d



Curse Words
P.O. Box 27228 Tempe AZ 85285-7228
www.spawn.com

The mail to Curse Words is getting pretty sparse. If you'd like to see your letters published here, now is a good time to write in. Chances are good right now that your letter could get published...

Mr McFarlane

I never got into comic books as a kid. As an adult, I began reading Star Wars comics only. However, in April 1997, a friend, Phil Fratell, talked me into reading Spawn. He told me all about your career, Spawn and how much he loved your work. I read Spawn and liked it very much. Of course, I needed the whole story and luckily Phil was able to furnish me with the complete collection. I read them all and overall was very pleased and excited about Spawn. I began collecting it myself. I'm no art critic but since then I've seen many other comics and there is nobody better than you.

Unfortunately, things began to change. After issue #60 (the clown kidnapping Cyan), the story line has dropped off completely. Very anticlimactic garbage - Spawn gets his face back and never gets to Wanda, decides to go after Wynn and never pulls it off, etc.

Then the HBO animated series comes out and there is so much trash in it. I wouldn't watch it, much less let my kids watch it. I didn't even attempt to watch the movie (the movie novelization was bad enough).

To my knowledge, one of the main reasons you created Image Comics was to, in effect, boycott the comic industries' disregard for the integrity of their respective characters, their over-willingness to do anything for a buck, etc. It seems to me that you have become guilty of the same transgressions. It is understandable the problems you ran into with the Spawn story line having Chapel as Al's killer. Fine, make it Priest instead. However, let's make some attempt to have some semblance of story continuity. (Curse of the Spawn) Jessica Priest, no a.k.a. Chapel, brunette, murders her parents as a younger married with children. (Spawn movie novelization) Priest, a.k.a. Chapel (why?), blond, writing letters to parents (reincarnated, or are they perhaps hellspawn too?), wants Wynn to marry her (perhaps she killed her husband and children instead of parents?). (Spawn comic and movie) Terry Fitzgerald, white, not the father of Cyan. Al and Wanda never married. Those aren't the only ones but you get the picture. I realize that you have to release most, if not all of your creative control to have your visions of movies, novels, etc. come to fruition but there is always a way to maintain your integrity and your character's integrity if you are determined enough.

Of course, if your answer to Anthony Olmos' letter in issue #68 is any indication, you chose to make these changes because you treat each project differently so as not just to retell Spawn's origins. I know the money was good but let's face it, you could find an entire new circle of friends to support and still not spend all the money you already have. You sold out, you sold Spawn out, you sold the fans out. Who cares how Spiderman came to be, today a spider bites him, tomorrow a snake, right? No need to simply retell origins, of course, but let's not change them either. Perhaps you should reissue Spawn #10 and have Spawn's arm reaching out through the bars also (how about in a $40 black and white issue?).

The Curse of the Spawn rape scene was not only completely unnecessary, but also revolting, disgusting, repulsive, insulting, and offensive. It's not bad enough that comic artists (yes, it is a stereotype) have to live out their fantasies through their completely unrealistic, sexist portrayal of women, but rape scenes go too far. I know all the cliché lines about your associations with C.O.T.S., but you did have to give it your stamp of approval and that shouldn't have received it.

You used to pencil and ink Spawn, then only ink, and now it's a part-time inking. I realize your new duties and areas of interest are requiring your time and energy, but let's just be up front and honest about it, okay?

The Spawn Movie Comic Adaptation was an embarrassment to include in my Spawn collection. Terribly drawn. I hope you liked it at least. Perhaps the quality of the art was in direct relation to the quality of the screenplay.

This is not to say that I like Spawn any less now than before, I simply feel that I've been getting garbage for the last 9 months while you were concentrating your efforts into cartoons and movies. Maybe a comic hiatus would've been better.

Are you going to attempt to bring the story lines into synch (e.g. the Heat-16 idea, resolution of the Wanda crisis, etc.) or do you just not care? Is Spawn going anywhere? Are the eagerly anticipating fans ever going to get a Spawn/Spiderman crossover (it would be more like simply talking about your high school days than actually going back there, if you know what I mean)? Will there by any female Hellspawns, either in Spawn or C.O.T.S. (not including Priests, or Chapels mother)? Would you ever be interested in drawing a one-shot Star Wars comic? I'd like to see the fan's reactions to these questions as well as your answers.

Three final things: I give you much respect for printing the good and the bad letters, ditto for not increasing prices, and were the CD variant covers really necessary? Of course, saps like me spent nearly $60 to get all three.

Thank you for your time.

Thomas Winship, Jr
Westchester NY

Wow! That was a fairly extensive letter there, Thomas. I thank you for taking the time to write down all your opinions, but it appears to me that some of the questions you raise I've answered them in the past (i.e. I treat each project as a separate entity and don't try and let the tail wag the dog on any of these). Unfortunately, maybe since we've grown up in a system that tries to homogenize everything that some of the tactics that I'm taking seem to be rubbing people the wrong way. I've built a career of going against the flow and this is just kind of a continuation of all that.

To sit here at this time and try and defend all the things I do, obviously I've done that somewhere along the lines in the letters column for the past 70 issues and those answers are either not sufficient or still seem to frustrate you. At some point you have to make a personal decision of entertaining yourself in areas or with things that give you joy and don't bug you. All I can do is the best I can given the conditions that are there and you can do the same by either saying "Okay, Spawn's going in a direction I like so let's stick around" or "I don't like Spawn. The time has come and unfortunately, it's time to move on beyond this character." That's a valid choice for any reader to make at any time with any book anywhere and we do it throughout the span of our lifetime, literally thousands of times in terms of what we like and don't like. I'm going to continue going down the road in a way that I see fit and all I can hope for is that those that follow get some kind of entertainment out of it and are pleased with some of the aspects I do. At no time do I expect anybody at anytime anywhere to like every thing that I do. Hopefully, I've created at least one piece that is different than the others that will show something that is a little more favorable so that they can continue to be Spawn fans. Hope you can find that one silver. If not, thanks for your support in the past. Take care. Bye.

TALK ABOUT A HELL-OF-A-DEAL

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The Mummy

The Phantom of the Opera

The Sea Creature

Dr. Frankenstein

The Monster Playsets Series 2 should be in stores as you read this, so here's a quick recap of each figure/set.

First up is the Dr. Frankenstein Playset. Like all the other playsets, this one features two characters and a diorama. The figures include the evil doctor and his "lab project." The lab contains a multitude of equipment, too. There's assorted beakers, some saws, a hypodermic, ...even some spare internal organs. The lab table raises and lowers to the "lightning bolt" (included) and has a groove for blood (NOT included) to drain out. The entire set can be placed flush on the ground or mounted on its columns. Now comes the best part: when on columns, it can INTERLOCK with the previously released Frankenstein Monster Playset from Series One, making a double-decker lab of truly horrific dimensions!

Next up is The Sea Creature Playset. A tall sculpture, it features both above and below the water scenes. Above is the hapless wrecked boat, slowly sinking into the "water" near the dock. Underneath awaits the sea creature himself, attacking the marooned diver. The creature has articulated legs, hips, waist, neck and ball-jointed arms while the doomed explorer has a knife, jointed arms and legs and a removable diving helmet. One of his arms is replaceable with a ravaged version giving him a more battle-damaged look.

The Phantom of the Opera Playset also is themed, with a separate balcony for the evil Phantom. With real cloth curtains behind him and a chandelier that can be dropped, he fights against the actor standing by the organ below. Both figures include removable masks and swords and the entire playset has intricate carvings and detailed painting.

The Mummy Playset is the final piece in the Monster II assortment. Covered with soft bandages, this undead Egyptian walks again fulfilling the curse on those who defile his tomb. He fits into the sarcophagus while the Anubis guard stands ready with an ankh staff. There's even a "working" snake pit complete with a two-headed snake (the flooring slides back while the bendable serpent can be moved from behind. Like the other playsets, these retail for under $10.

And now onto the letters:

Dylan Cook of the UK sent us an e-mail asking a few questions. While we can't tell you about some of the upcoming figures yet, we can fill you in on some of the other information you wanted. For example: the shipping charges. The McFarlane Toys Collector's Club has been able to lower its rates for mailing packages internationally. After reviewing a few bids from different services, we now have it down to $6 per figure/item in Canada, $8 for each figure/item for all other non-US countries. This is a substantial savings over our old rates for someone buying just a few toys. And we're still looking into other methods that would provide fast reliable service without an increase in cost. Dylan also asked, "Why are McFarlane Toys never released to the proper market here in the UK? The toys sell really well here as every time I'm after a figure they are always sold out!" Well, everyone in America would complain about the same thing. The popular figures are by definition the favorites of many people. Thus they sell quickly. Usually a little bit of patience pays off and by waiting a month or so you can finally find the figure you've been looking for. You can be assured we're not trying to CUT sales in any country.

Aaron Mitchell of Connolly Western Australia asked if it's possible for him to order our figures through PREVIEWS magazine. PREVIEWS is the catalog put out monthly by Diamond Comics, the distributors to comic shops worldwide. You CAN order through them (actually through your local comic store) and then keep checking with your shop to see when they will come in. It's usually two or so months after the advance order was placed but it may be a bit longer for overseas accounts. In fact, PREVIEWS is the ONLY place to order some figures, like the Spawn Alley Playset with Todd the Bum, coming in a month or two.

Darryll McCrary from Kansas City Kansas wrote in asking for Spawn III and a subscription to the Spawn comic. Sorry, but we can't sell the Spawn III through the club yet; as this was being written we were STILL sending them out to stores. Hopefully you found one there this time around. We simply cannot sell any figure until it has stopped shipping for at LEAST three months to stores. We want all the stores we sell out first so we aren't competing with them. And the Spawn comic isn't offered by subscription through us but your local comic store may be able to set you up. For the comic shop nearest you, please use their toll-free locator service, 1-888-COMIC-BOOK, anywhere in the U.S. and Canada.

Ben Aragon also wrote in (without including his address) asking why he hasn't been getting his club flyers. While we have a better than 97% delivery rate, that still means that more than a THOUSAND people can slip through the crack and not get their mailed piece. And that's assuming that the address we have on file is correct, since so many people move. If we're told by the post office that something is undeliverable, we remove that address from our files. That saves us from mailing it back out to the wrong address a second time. However, we may never be able to get in touch with you again. PLEASE be sure to include not only your name and street address, but apartment numbers and ZIP (or postal) code. We want to have 100% delivery but we can't do it without your help. If you're mailing in a letter, remember to put your address on it so we can keep track of where it came from.

The winner of the FREE Green Cosmic Angela this month is Aaron Mitchell. How can YOU win? Send us a good question, a clear photo of your customized figure or diorama, a drawing on an envelope or something else we can print here in End Cap. We pick one winner each month.

TODD MCFARLANE'S

Spawn

Todd McFarlane's Spawn returns to HBO on May 15. As promised, here is the rest of our interview with the cast of Spawn. Last month you heard from Keith David (Spawn/Al Simmons) , Richard Dysart (Cogliostro) and special guest voice Robert Forster (Major Forsberg). We also spoke with Dominique Jennings (Wanda Blake), John Ratter Lee (Jason Wynn), Victor Love (Terry Fitzgerald) and Michael Nicolosi (Clown). Here's what they had to say about working on this highly successful animated series:

Q: Please tell us some of your previous credits.

Dominique Jennings (Wanda Blake): "I've been on Sunset Beach for approximately a year and sitcoms like The Weyans and Life with Roger. I worked on Seven, various plays--a little of everything."

John Ratter Lee (Jason Wynn): "My previous credits are mostly theater. I'm actually driving to San Diego tonight to do a play at the Old Globe. I spent many years in Seattle doing plays. I am also a writer and a playwright. My other major credit, not dissimilar from this, was the sort of bad guy on Aeon Flux for MTV. I was Trevor Goodchild, who is not quite as evil as Jason Wynn."

Victor Love (Terry Fitzgerald): "Most of my experience is on-camera stuff. My first feature was Native Son back in 1987 with Oprah Winfrey; she played my mom. I did the Hank Gathers Story where I played Hank. I was in Gang Related with Tupac Shakur and I've done a lot of TV episodic stuff. I was also in the original company of A Few Good Men on Broadway. I have a movie coming out now with Melanie Griffith called Reasonable Doubt."

Michael Nicolosi (Clown): "I haven't done a lot voice work. I did a show for Nickelodeon called Elmo and Kevi for a very short time and Spawn. Other than that, all my work is theatrical, years of theater, feature films and television movies. I've been doing theater since I was 17 years old, Second City Conservatory, American Conservatory Theater and San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. There's actually about 20 movies and about 60 plays including The Rite of Three and Things To Do In Denver When You're Dead."

Q: Were you familiar with Spawn before you accepted this part?

Jennings: "No, I wasn't. I had heard how great it was through people I know who love comic books and when I read the script I was thoroughly impressed. It read like a movie script, a half hour movie script--really strong and intense."

Lee: "Not in the slightest, in fact, as a kid I didn't read comic books very much at all. I was one of those sort of brainy kids who actually read books without pictures. I'd read a Superman now and again or a Batman every once in a while. Then I came here and heard that Spawn was the most popular comic book in America."

Nicolosi: "I've been into comic books since I was a kid and had a great comic book collection but Spawn was not something I was really hip to. I had just seen a couple issues of it. I knew Jack Fletcher, the Voice Director on Spawn, because I had done theater with him in San Francisco and I studied under him at the American Conservatory Theater. When I heard Jack was doing this and he was calling in people to voice auditions for different characters, I went and bought every issue of the comic book there was, the entire line up to that point. I read the comic books in their entirety so I could get an idea of what was going on and immediately fell in love with it. That's also when I fell in love with Clown. Clown seemed to be like the Greek Chorus of a play, as it were. It was kind of through him that the story was being told, or if nothing else, he was watching the story unfold because that was the job he was given by Malbogia. Finally, Jack called me in to read for Tony Twist but when I was done I asked Jack if he had cast Clown. He said no and that they were having a hard time finding him. I told him I had come up with a voice and asked if he would hear me out. He did and I was hired to play to part of Clown."

Q: Why did you decide to accept this role?

Jennings: "I really didn't think I had any other choice. It was so different and so unusual. Since I was a child, I always wanted to do a cartoon and always practiced my little voices and all that stuff. When I went in to audition, I thought they would probably use a celebrity. Then I was offered the role and I was so excited. Spawn just took it to another realm. This is a completely different genre, it's not kids programming. And all my friends think it's the coolest thing ever."

Nicolosi: "When I read the comic book I really wanted to do Clown, but I was supposed to be reading for Tony Twist. I thought Clown was a great character and that's actually what I went in to do. My secret ploy was to get in the room and read for Tony, then ask them if they would hear this voice I had come up with for Clown. I came up with the voice by reading the comic book and seeing where he was from, that he was a native of Hell, and had picked this little dwarf body and started getting ideas. If you didn't own your body, if you came from a different planet and were just able to wear it, you might not be able to use it very well or may be just learning to use it. I thought he might not know how to use his vocal chords yet. So I came up with this voice using as much of my range as possible, kind of sporadically, as he tries to talk. The voice sounded right to me; it just played into the way I thought he would sound. When they asked me to do it, it was something I had already been playing for."

Q: Does this compare to anything you've done before?

Jennings: "It really doesn't--it's got a life of it's own. People would think just going in that reading off a script would be so simple, but it's not. You have a lot of emotional intent that you have to really get across; I don't want to say more so than on film. You're not seeing your face, but you're using your face and there's a lot that has to go on. I was so exhausted one time leaving here from crying, screaming and then they asked me do a Spanish accent too, when I got to Sunset Beach everyone was asking if I was okay. I was exhausted. It's so emotionally draining but it's great. It's what we all want. If the writing is really good, it makes you

Lee: "The only thing it really compares to, very slightly, is doing a reading of a play or film script. It has the intimacy of sounding...where you sit around a table and the person that you're looking at right there because you're not talking to an audience for whom you have to project. But this is even quieter because the microphone is so close. If I'm on the phone, I talk like a guy talking on the phone. I talk quietly into this little microphone. The best for me, and well to give to everything."

Q: What do you [illegible] for your character?

Jennings: "[illegible] honesty for one. I believe that there is a [illegible] and they cannot be replaced. [illegible] into your life and those people may be [illegible] is still just one person for you. I [illegible] will always remain with [illegible] here. In real life, it sort of [illegible] mother was killed when I was very young and he will never get married again. It just is what it is. I kind of relate it to that."

Lee: "I'm somebody who, whatever medium it is, if I trust the director I will do what the director asks. It sounds sort of unimaginative in some ways but it actually isn't. It's interesting with animated series, there is much more direction, 'John please read the line this way' and you are given the music of the line, a bit more than in theater and film and I'm quite comfortable with that. I was fortunate that I knew Jack (Fletcher, Voice Director) from Aeon Flux so the most fun, is when you actually have the other actors in the recording studio and you do an episode from the first line to the last line chronologically. There might be ten actors at microphones and we go through scene by scene. In a sense like doing it in order the way plays get done. So it's interesting, when we get in a room you find the actors have a great sense of improv. A lot of stuff comes out and you tend to find that those shows zing a little more than the others. A couple of the episodes in this third set of six have been done that way with only a couple actors missing."

Midnight May 15th on HBO

had a level of trust with him. What I bring to the role, I tend to have a dark sensibility and a very black, dark sense of humor. Were I ruling the world, I probably would behave very much like Jason Wynn. What I like about what I do with Jason is I find his humor, Jason is not likable and never can be but if you find the humor in somebody, the audience will forgive him his mass murders. 'Ah, but he's funny, that was a good line while he was killing all those people.' So I tend to find [illegible] I don't know why. But I think what I do is deliver what you might call Jason's 'funny lines' very well."

Love: "What I try to bring to Terry Fitzgerald is honesty. I try to bring what it's like really living these conditions and some of them are hard. Like this week, we are talking about being in an opium den. These kind of things are great for my imagination. I try to take all that stuff, this huge world they [illegible] real specific to myself."

Nicolosi: "There's a certain spiritualism about what Todd McFarlane wrote. The question of what is good and what is evil is brilliantly asked by Todd just in the format of the book itself. Clown kind of represents one side in the battle of good and evil. He's on evil's side, he's there as a mentor for Spawn and he's trying to start Armageddon. At the same time we have Spawn, who was an assassin and had what a godly person would call evil aspects, but was he a bad man? No. He wanted to be a father, he wanted to be a good husband, he was like a lot of people but he had this job that was considered evil. So it begins to make people ask, 'What is good? What is evil?' I think that's the brilliance of the whole series. It starts to challenge, in very subtle, very real ways, the whole idea of making moral judgments between what is good and evil. So I try to bring that kind of spiritualism, just by how Clown acts and by what he represents, to keep challenging the viewer to ask the question themselves, 'What is good and evil?' Then the whole series becomes [illegible] on a completely different level."

Q: How does voice acting differ from traditional acting?

Lee: "You bring to it the same emotional resonance and pretty much what you would bring to any other role. You use your body when you're in a recording studio and you may not even realize it. When you're sitting two inches from a microphone, your hands are actually going and your body's twisting. But what you have to do is use your voice in a very different way. If you're in a theater, obviously you have to make the back row hear you. Here you don't have to make the back row hear you. You can do things with very minor shifts [illegible] that you simply couldn't pick up in another medium, even film."

Love: "I think sometimes you've got to be a little more clear with voice acting because you don't have your face to tell the story. Like if I've changed my mind, my face doesn't show you I've changed my mind; my voice has to show it to you. If I stay clear, then it's pretty much the same place I work from."

Q: What's your favorite episode from season one? Season two?

Jennings: "Definitely episode six, for the emotional effect it had on me. I watched that last one where they lint my daughter and my eyes welled up as I was watching the cartoon! I haven't seen any of season two but I thought the scripts just got better and better, I was always surprised. Now we are taking a whole different turn which will be very interesting."

Lee: "I love the stuff with the Senator probably because I love politics. The first six episodes had a storyline with the Senator and the senator's son, who was a child molester and serial killer. It was my relationship with the Senator I loved because I am skeptical enough to believe that it's actually not far from the truth. Not the serial murder stuff, but the way politicians deal with each other. Jason Wynn is a politician, although he's a mass murdering politician. Dennis Cox, who played the senator, was usually in the booth with me and we would have a great time doing take after take just modulating slightly. Also, I like the way Wynn knows his orders will be obeyed. There's a way he gives an order that has almost no sense of menace about it, 'Jason Wynn said it, it will be done.' I like that aspect of it."

Love: "My favorite may be the first episode from season one, I was blown away by how powerful it was and how it pulls you in. Something about the way they've done the caricature voices for this show really pulls you in, makes you look, makes you listen. Because it is so much reality mixed in with so much fantasy, it's scary and you get caught up in it."

Tune in for the next six episodes of Todd McFarlane's Spawn beginning May 15 on HBO and look for the six more to air in the Fall of 1998.

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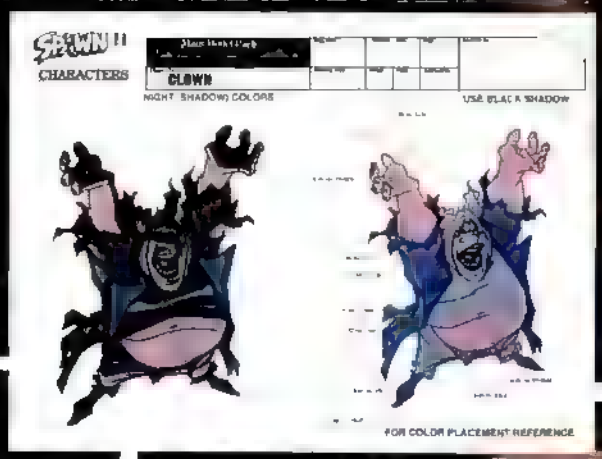
Michael Nicholosi (Clown)



Dominique Jennings (Wanda)

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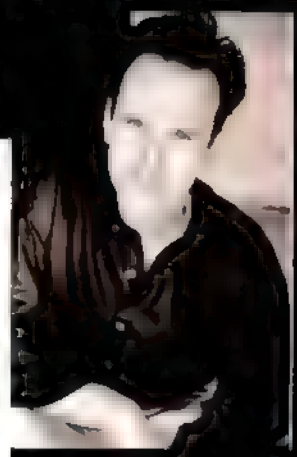

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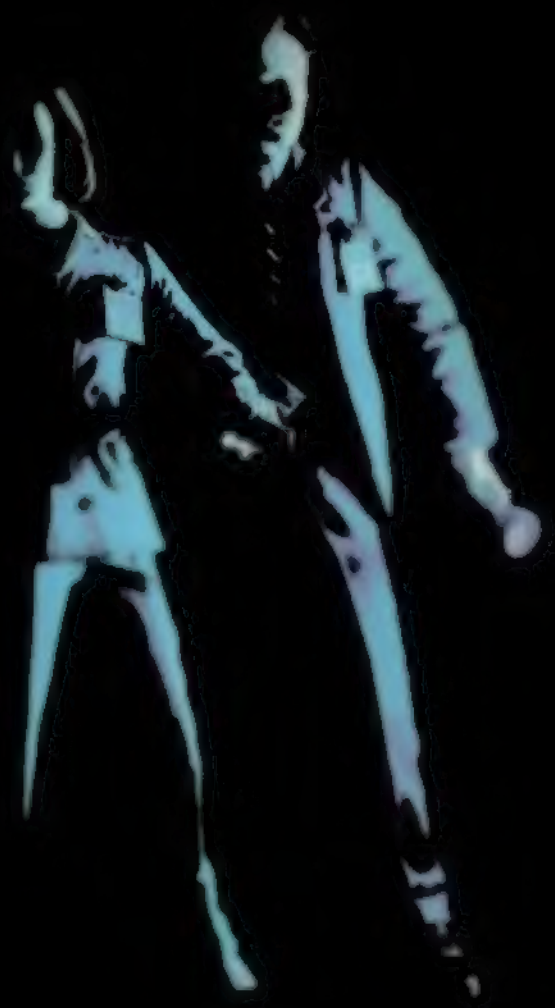

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